

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a hardfile controller included in a computer system having an operating system performing a pre-boot test, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a) detecting a special boot condition during the a pre-boot test of the computer system; and
  - b) altering, in response to detecting the special boot condition, adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile to alter an operating system access configuration of the hardfile.
2. (Currently Amended) The access method of claim 1, wherein adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile the altering step b) dynamically sets a maximum accessible size of the hardfile.
3. (Currently Amended) The access method of claim 1, wherein the hardfile is a hard drive.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and wherein the altering step b) adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile sets the hardfile access to

exclude the second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and wherein ~~the altering step b) adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile~~ sets the hardfile maximum size to exclude the second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the special boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A storage system for a computer system having an operating system and a pre-boot procedure, comprising:

a hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile; and

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a special boot condition detected by the pre-boot procedure, ~~for operable to~~ dynamically reconfiguring reconfigure operating system access to the hardfile including adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile to permit

access to both the first part of the hardfile and the second part of the hardfile in a first mode and to permit access to only the first part of the hardfile in a second mode.

14. (Currently Amended) A storage system for a computer system having an operating system, comprising:

a hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile; and

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a special boot condition detected by a pre-boot procedure of the computer system, ~~for operable to dynamically reconfiguring reconfigure~~ operating system access to the hardfile including adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile to permit access to both the first part of the hardfile and the second part of the hardfile in a first mode and to permit access to only the first part of the hardfile in a second mode.

15. (Currently Amended) A storage system controller for a hardfile of a computer system having an operating system and a pre-boot procedure, the hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile, comprising:

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a special boot condition detected by the pre-boot procedure, ~~for operable to dynamically reconfiguring reconfigure~~ operating system access to the hardfile including adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile to permit access to both the first part of the hardfile and the second part of the hardfile in a first mode and to permit access by the operating system to only the first part of the hardfile in a second mode.

16. (Currently Amended) A storage system controller for a hardfile of a computer

system having an operating system, the hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile, comprising:

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a special boot condition detected by a pre-boot procedure of the computer system, for operable to dynamically reconfiguring reconfigure operating system access to the hardfile including adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile to permit access to both the first part of the hardfile and the second part of the hardfile in a first mode and to permit access by the operating system to only the first part of the hardfile in a second mode.

17. (Currently Amended) A hardfile system for a computer system, comprising:

a hardfile for non-volatile storage of an operating system and user data;  
means, coupled to the computer system, for detecting a special boot condition during the a pre-boot test of the computer system; and  
means, coupled to the hardfile and to the detecting means, for adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile to alter altering, in response to the special boot condition, an operating system access configuration of the hardfile in response to detecting the special boot condition.

18. (Currently Amended) A hardfile storage system, comprising:

a hardfile for non-volatile storage of an operating system for a computer system in a first part of the hardfile and for non-volatile storage of user data in a second part of the hardfile; and  
means, coupled to the hardfile, for dynamically enabling adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile to permit operating system access to the hardfile in a first mode and a second mode, wherein the first mode enables access to both the first part of the hardfile and the second part of the

hardfile and the second mode enables access to only the first part of the hardfile.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a hardfile controller included in a computer system having an operating system performing a pre-boot test, the computer readable program code means in the computer usable medium comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing the computer system to detect a special boot condition during the pre-boot test; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer system to adjust a size of a partition of the hardfile to alter, in response to the boot condition, an operating system access configuration parameter of the hardfile in response to detection of the special boot condition.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer usable medium of claim 19, wherein the special boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

21. (Original) The computer usable medium of claim 19, wherein the hardfile is a hard disk.

22. (Original) The computer usable medium of claim 21, wherein the configuration parameter is a SETMAX value.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for access control of a hard file in a computer system, the program instructions for:

a) detecting a special boot condition during the pre-boot test; and

b) altering, in response to detecting the special boot condition, adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile to alter an operating system access configuration of an access parameter of the hardfile.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the special boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

25. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the hardfile is a hard disk.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein adjusting a size of a partition of the hardfile includes adjusting a size of a Protected Area Run Time Interface Extension Services (PARTIES) partition.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising using a SETMAX procedure to adjust the size of the PARTIES partition.

28. (New) A method for controlling access of an operating system to data in a hard drive of a computer system, the method comprising:

providing a computer system including a hard drive, the hard drive including one or more of user data or software applications in a first portion of the hard drive;

initiating a power on self-test of the computer system;

determining whether a pre-determined condition occurs to limit access to the one or more of user data or software applications in the first portion of the hard drive; and

if the pre-determined condition occurs then dynamically adjusting a size of a partition of the hard drive during the power on self-test to exclude access of the operating system to the one or more of user data or software applications in the first portion of the hard drive;

otherwise providing the operating system full access to the one or more of user data or software applications in the first portion of the hard drive.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein dynamically adjusting a size of a partition includes adjusting a size of a Protected Area Run Time Interface Extension Services (PARTIES) partition.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the hard drive is a ATAPI-4 compliant hard drive.